

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Swaziland Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

October 1987

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

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OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

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USE PREVIOUS
EDITIONS

GPO : 1983 O - 411-632

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

P.O. Box 199
Mbabane, Swaziland

3 November 1987
FBIS 5801-87

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Swaziland Bureau--October 1987

I. GENERAL

Working with data from the July Salary Change Survey, in October the Department of State approved an increase for the Embassy's FSN wage scale, retroactive to 19 July. Headquarters was alerted to this increase and is forwarding data to PMCD to get the Bureau's FBN wage scale increased.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Fighting between Angolan Government forces and UNITA rebels continued this month with prolonged and heavy engagements on the Mavinga front. In a 16 October dispatch from KUP, UNITA claimed the MPLA had suffered its "worst defeat yet," as ranks of the 47th Brigade were decimated by one-third in an offensive on the banks of the Lomba River. The report also noted UNITA's capture of a SAM-8 anti-aircraft missile and radar system. By 30 October, the MPLA, according to another KUP report, had abandoned Cassamba, captured in earlier fighting, and withdrawn to positions just outside Cuito Cuanavale.

2. In response, the Angolan Ministry of External Relations issued a "declaration" on 16 October detailing South African logistical and operational support to UNITA. According to this statement, the "armed bandits" "fled in disarray" to an area south of the Lomba River, "where they could count on massive support from and direct intervention by the racist South African Army." Concurrently, the Angolan Government stated: "Our forces are not helped in any way by our allies" and averred that South Africa advanced claims about Soviet and Cuban military advisers in Angola as a "pretext to justify its aggression."

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3. South African Defense Minister Magnus Malan, speaking at the 14 October opening of an Air Force base in the northern Transvaal, affirmed his country's opposition to "terrorists who are accommodated and supported" by Mozambique. Malan called on Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano to do "his share" in retarding this threat "or else we will have to take steps to ensure that the terrorists in his country are effectively neutralized."

4. The political rift among South African liberals widened on 11 October with the formation of the National Democratic Movement. Wynand Malan, an independent member of parliament who left the National Party before the May elections, heads the new group. Progressive Federal Party MP's Peter Gastrow and Pierre Cronje, along with President's Council member Pieter Schoemann, announced their decision to cross over to the movement. Conspicuous by his absence was Denis Worrall, former ambassador to the United Kingdom, who resigned his post and National Party membership in an unsuccessful May election bid to win the Helderberg constituency. Worrall complained that he was "elbowed out" by Malan in a play for control of the so-called Independent movement.

5. Zimbabwe held parliamentary elections on 23 and 30 October to fill House of Assembly and Senate seats previously reserved for whites. ZANU-PF, the ruling party, saw all of its candidates succeed in their bids for the 20 vacant Assembly seats. Eleven of the victors are white. ZANU-sponsored candidates also swept all 10 Senate seats being contested.

B. Communications

1. After a 2-day installation period which occasioned a circuit outage at the Bureau, on 28 October Pretoria CPU transferred our primary communications circuits to their new MegaMux multiplex system. This arrangement coincides with a new hardware configuration at

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C. Technical

1. Attempts to install the newly-arrived Victor VPC II in the communications section proved unsuccessful, as the black box currently in use with the IBM XT was incompatible with Victor interface. We await the arrival of our new black box.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Associate editor [redacted] was presented with the Special Achievement Award for her work on the South African press review.

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2. Editor [redacted] was awarded a Certificate of Exceptional Accomplishment in connection with her efforts toward bureau automation.

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IV. VISITS

A. New Embassy GSO Scott Heckman toured the Bureau on 8 October.

B. Embassy CPU Chief Rudy Garcia toured the Bureau on 27 October, especially to get a briefing on the Bureau's primary and secondary circuits. He offered to help interface with CPU Pretoria in activating the multiplex system.

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[redacted]
Chief, Swaziland Bureau